

RESTRICTED

2 October 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Reswell M. Yingling
Chief Management Branch
Office of Secretary of War
War Department
Room 3C852, The Pentagon

SUBJECT: Transfer of Washington Document Center

Tentative arrangements have been completed with G-2 and ONI for transfer of the Washington Document Center to the Central Intelligence Group.

The transfer is to be made on the understanding that personnel now assigned to the Center will remain intact in order to permit C.I.G. to review the personnel roster, as well as the operations of the Center, and determine the size and scope for future operations.

3. Termination notices have already been issued to civilian personnel assigned to this Center, and it is requested that, in accordance with your conversation with [redacted] of this office today, these notices be withdrawn or extended.

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4. The cost involved in connection with the payment of civilian personnel from the effective date of termination notices until approximately 1 December 1946 may be charged to the funds available in the Office of the Chief of Staff for the Foreign Broadcast Intelligence Service,

5. The question regarding the transfer of military personnel from the Washington Document Center to C.I.G. cannot be determined at this time due to the lack of a military allotment for this agency. However, the understanding is that military personnel will not be reassigned without C.I.G. concurrence.

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MMcHugh:mew

cc: Mr. Saunders
Mr. Lightsey

[redacted]
Colonel, CAC
Executive for Personnel and Administration

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Ret. to [redacted] P&A
Ret. to [redacted] (Orig. Office)
Central Records (2)
Stayback
Mr. Edwards [redacted]

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- 20. Metropolitan Police Board
- 21. Military Police Headquarters
- 22. No. 1 Demobilization Ministry (Army Ministry)
- 23. No. 2 Demobilization Ministry (Navy Ministry)

24. Approved For Release 2003/04/22 : CIA-RDP80R01731R003400120049-3

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[REDACTED]

4 October 1946

Colonel S. Edwards

Washington Document Center

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1. In accordance with my conversation with you and [REDACTED] reference the Washington Document Center, request that a representative from your office and the necessary administrative officer on duty with the WDC be present at a meeting in Room 2262, New War Building at 1000 Tuesday 8 October to discuss future planning and administrative arrangements concerning the military and naval personnel on duty with the WDC.

2. The appropriate representatives from ONI are also being invited.

SE/bhr

SHEFFIELD EDWARDS
Colonel, FA

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ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTRAL REPOSITORY AND THE MEANS FOR
EXPLOITATION AND DISSEMINATION OF ALL CAPTURED JAPANESE
DOCUMENTS UNDER ONE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY

THE PROBLEM

1. To provide a central repository and the means for exploitation for all captured Japanese documents held by government agencies under one central government agency.

FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM

2. The Washington Document Center (WDC) was established on 14 February 1946 under the Director of Naval Intelligence as a central agency for the handling of captured Japanese documents with close working liaison with Pacific. On 9 April 1946, Pacific transferred their personnel to W.D.C.

3. Documents:

(a) The Washington Document Center (Advanced) in Tokyo collected approximately 500 tons of documents. The major portion of these or approximately 700,000 documents have been received in W.D.C., Washington, D.C. This collection is perhaps the most complete source of information on the entire Far East in the world today and contains information of value to our many government agencies and industry.

The major Japanese sources contributing to this collection are:

1. Cabinet Secretariat
2. Cabinet Personnel Bureau
3. Cabinet Information Bureau
4. Cabinet Statistics Bureau
5. Cabinet Printing Bureau
6. Patent Bureau
7. Privy Council
8. Diet Secretariats
9. Foreign Ministry (and East Asia Ministry)
10. Home Ministry
11. Munitions Ministry
12. Finance Ministry
13. Transport Ministry
14. Commerce and Industry Ministry
15. Agriculture and Forestry Ministry
16. Education Ministry
17. Central Meteorological Observatory
18. Welfare Ministry
19. Justice Ministry
20. Metropolitan Police Board
21. Military Police Headquarters
22. No. 1 Demobilization Ministry (Army Ministry)
23. No. 2 Demobilization Ministry (Navy Ministry)
24. South Manchurian Railway
25. East Asia Research Institute.

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